

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-9 and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Swale. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the present application, there is generally a system and a method for providing call charge information during a telecommunication call. The call is set up by a calling subscriber with a first terminal. The first terminal is connected to a first local telecommunication exchange. The called subscriber has a second terminal which is connected to a second local telecommunication exchange.

The call charges arising from the telecommunication link are determined in the first local telecommunication exchange. Then the first local telecommunication exchange generates a message which holds the corresponding call charge information (i.e. Charging Tariff, Add-on Charge, Charging Acknowledgement). This message is sent to the second local telecommunication exchange. The call charge information is configured in a way that it can be used in real time during the actual telephone call (for example, for Reversed-Charge-feature when the called subscriber pays for the call, for the Advice-of-Charge-feature or for the Subscriber Credit Limit Supervision – both for the usage by the called subscriber).

In the invention, the call charge information are sent “as **messages**” from the first local telecommunication exchange of the calling subscriber to the second local telecommunication exchange of the called subscriber. In this manner, only the second local telecommunication exchange, to which the called subscriber is connected, gets the information to correctly calculate the call charge, because the call charges as well as the tariff for a call are determined in the first local exchange connected to the calling subscriber. If the call charge and tariff for a call are determined in the second local exchange connected to the called subscriber, the second local exchange will determine the call costs on the basis of model and by assuming that the call has been initiated by the called subscriber. Charge accounting for the called party thus takes place at the wrong level of costs. Hence, a message with call charge information determined by the first local exchange connected to the calling subscriber is sent to the second local exchange connected to the called subscriber.

Swale discloses a method for telecommunications charging which offers reverse charging (see, col. 6, ln. 21 – ln. 40). Therefore, a signal is sent from exchange A to the exchange B which names the B-party as calling party. The signal will also contain the necessary details for exchange B to set up its own Call Detail Record. The Call Detail Record is a file containing information about recent telecommunication calls such as the identities of sources (points of origin), the identities of destinations (endpoints), the duration of each call, the amount billed for each call, the total usage time, the total free time remaining in the billing period, and the running total charged during the billing period. The Call Detail Record is a file which is stored in the local exchange and contains information about all the calls passing through the local exchange. The Call Detail Record is processed in an operation support system and is the basis for the bill which is sent to each subscriber.

However, a Call Detail Record cannot be used for providing call charge information in **real time** – which would be necessary, if the called subscriber wants to use features such as Advice of Charge, by which the actual call cost are displayed on the subscriber's terminal or as Subscriber Credit Limit Supervision by which the capability is provided of not allowing the accruing costs to exceed the upper limit by terminating the telephone call.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122020600.

However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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